

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted supplementary to the previous Amendment and in connection with the interview with the Examiner.

The Examiner's highly beneficial cooperation during the interview has been gratefully acknowledged.

In view of the discussion of the present application during the conference, applicant amended Claim 1, the broadest claim on file, and also added Claim 12, the second independent claim.

It is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 as amended clearly and patentably distinguishes the present invention from the prior art applied by the Examiner.

Turning now to the Examiner's grounds for rejection of the claims, and in particular to the U.S. patent to Kweon, it can be seen that this reference discloses a spring element having an inner ring and an outer ring, in which the "movable unit" is moved exclusively linearly relative to the housing (10). In other words, the spring element is connected non-rotatably with the housing and non-rotatably with the movable unit (20). Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art who

familiarized himself with the teaching of the patent to Kweon would find no hint or suggestion for a rotor shaft which must be rotatably supported with a roller bearing in a housing.

Moreover, a combination of the spring element with the electric motor in accordance with the U.S. Patent to Fries, does not suggest to connect the outer ring of a spring element with the rotor of an electric motor, so that the spring element rotates together with the rotor relative to the housing. Moreover, a combination of U.S. patents to Kweon and Fries, would lead to the construction in which the spring element disclosed in the patent to Fries will move with the outer ring in the housing (with locking ring (11)) and the inner ring rests for example on the inner bearing ring of the ball bearing. Thereby, the ball bearing would be exclusively fixed in the housing. No axially play compensation for the rotor can be obtained, which is the main objective of the present invention.

The connection of the outer ring (42) with the rotor component (34) for joint rotation relative to the housing part (16) in contrast has an important advantage that the spring element compensates an axial play (clearance, air) between the rotatable rotor and the housing-fixed ball bearing. A combination of the spring element disclosed in the patent to Kweon and the electric motor disclosed in the patent to Fries

would however definitely not lead to such an axial compensation between the rotatable rotor and the fixed ball bearing.

When in accordance with the present invention the outer ring of the spring element is fixably connected with the rotor, the spring element can be pre-mounted before on the rotor and during the mounting of the rotor inserted in one working step in the housing with the previously mounted ball bearing. Thereby the tolerances between the inner ring and the rotor shaft can be maintained relatively large, so that the spring element is displaceable axially relative to the rotor shaft in a friction-free manner. With this embodiment, the inner ring (40) of the spring element rotates relative to the inner part (28) of the ball bearing, whereby the axially play compensation of a rotatable rotor relative to the housing-fixed bearing can be provided. Thereby the ball bearing can be pressed into a bearing receptacle (18) of the housing in a very simple manufacturing process.

The Examiner's attention is further respectfully directed to the features of the new Claim 12, which combines the features of the original Claims 1, 8 and 11.

When the electrical machine is designed as defined in Claim 12, it has the advantage that the outer ring of the spring element can be

attached directly to an end face of the end armature lamination during the manufacturing of the laminated armature.

It is respectfully submitted that both Claim 1 and Claim 12 should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

As for the dependent claims, these claims depend on Claim 1, they share its allowable features, and they should be allowed as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be

helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 27233